

Message Text

SECRET

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14

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7967

S E C R E T TEHRAN 6852

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IR

SUB: SURVEY REPORT OF CHAH BAHAR

REF: STATE 161029

1. TOOK ADVANTAGE OF AUDIENCE ON ANOTHER MATTER TO PASS CONTENTS REFTEL TO SHAH SINCE HE WILL BE LEAVING TEHRAN FOR SUMMER STAY ON CASPIAN AS SOON AS BHUTTO DEPARTS. HAD PREPARED MATERIAL PROVIDED IN WRITTEN FORM SO THAT SHAH COULD READ AND STUDY IT IN MY PRESENCE. EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT WE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED DETAILED REPORT WHICH WAS BEING POUCHED BUT PROMISED TO PASS IT TO HIM AS SOON AS RECEIVED.

2. SHAH GREETED INFORMATION IN REFTEL WITH EQUANIMITY. HE STATED THAT THE COST OF A NAVAL BASE AT CHAH BAHAR HAD RISEN SO HIGH THAT HE HAD ALREADY ORDERED HIS "PEOPLE" TO SCALE DOWN ITS SIZE IN THE PLANS. HE INDICATED THAT OUR SURVEY REPORT FITTED IN NICELY WITH THE LIMITATIONS WHICH HE FELT HE MUST PUT ON THE SCOPE OF THE INSTALLATION.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION THE SHAH MONOLOGUED A BIT ABOUT FOREIGN COMPANIES TRYING TO ROB IRAN WITH EXCESSIVE CONSTRUCTION COSTS. HE PICKED ON COSTAIN OF BRITAIN FAR MORE THAN HE DID ON BROWN AND ROOT OF THE UNITED STATES. HE POINTED OUT THAT ARAB GOVERNMENTS ENCOURAGE FOREIGN COMPANIES TO ADD AS MUCH AS SEVEN

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THOUSAND PERCENT ON TOP OF COSTS SO THE EXTRA MONEY CAN BE

POCKETED. HE NOTED THAT THE FOREIGN COMPANIES THEN COME TO EXPECT THAT IRAN IS GOING TO BEHAVE IN THE SAME MANNER SINCE IT IS LOCATED IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. HIS BOTTOM-LINE COMMENT WAS THAT IRAN WOULD DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO KEEP THESE COSTS DOWN DESPITE INFLATED ESTIMATES BY CONTRACTORS.
HELMS

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NNN

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